

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 9 remain pending in the present application. Claims 4-8 have been withdrawn by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

### **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) alleging them to unpatentable over Ouchi (WO 02/28668) in view of Maynard (U.S. Patent No. 5,233,741). The Examiner alleges that this combination would render Applicant's invention obvious to those skilled in the art.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 further defines that the fastening means combines the wheel hub and the outer joint member. The fastening means includes a fastener and a bore in the outer joint member to receive the fastener. The releasing means is adapted to be arranged on the wheel hub to remove the outer joint member from the wheel hub. The releasing means utilizes the bore to remove the outer joint member.

The art cited by the Examiner fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention. The Ouchi reference illustrates a bearing unit for a wheel drive. The Ouchi reference neither discloses nor suggests any type of mechanism to remove the outer joint member from the wheel hub. The Ouchi reference is totally silent about this feature. Next, the Examiner combines the Ouchi reference with a pushing tool. The Maynard device has a rod, which pushes against the surface of the half shaft. The Maynard reference fails to disclose or suggest a bore in the outer member or half shaft, which is

used to both secure as well as remove the outer member from the wheel hub. Nowhere does the combination suggest such a feature.

Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 1 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claim 3 and 9, which depend from Claim 1, are also patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

### **CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

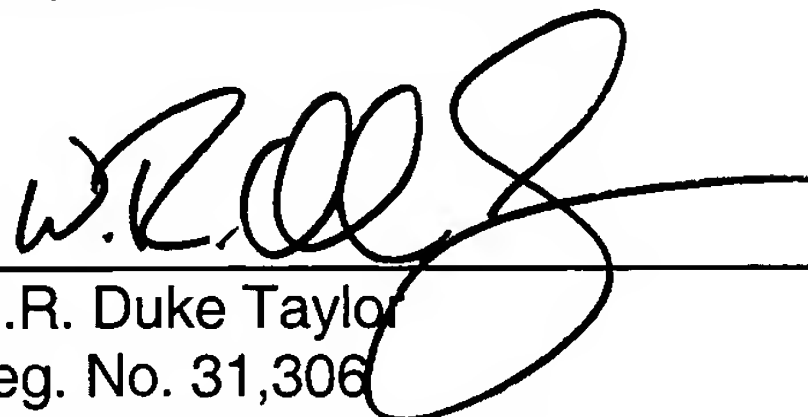
The Examiner has rejected Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the above further in view of Rutter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,682,221).

The Rutter et al. reference fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Examiner's primary combination. Thus, this combination, like the Examiner's primary combination of Ouchi and Maynard, fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 9 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.R. Duke Taylor', is written over a horizontal line.

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